

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for inhibiting Ig production in a sample of ex vivo peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) comprising adding an inhibitory composition to said population.

5 2. A method for treating an autoimmune disorder in a patient comprising:  
a) removing peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from said patient;  
b) treating said cells with an inhibitory composition for a time sufficient to suppress Ig production; and  
10 c) reintroducing said cells to said patient.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said inhibitory composition comprises IL-2.

4. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said inhibitory composition comprises a mixture of IL-2 and TGF- $\beta$ .

15 5. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said inhibitory composition comprises a CD2 activator.

6. A method according to claim 2 wherein said autoimmune disorder is systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

20 7. A kit for the treatment of an autoimmune disorder in a patient comprising:  
a) a cell treatment container adapted to receive cells from a patient with an antibody-mediated autoimmune disorder; and  
b) at least one dose of an inhibitory composition.

8. A kit according to claim 7 further comprising written instructions for the method of treating.

25 9. A kit according to claim 7 wherein said dose is contained within said cell treatment container.

10. A kit according to claim 7 wherein said dose is in a lyophilized form.

11. A kit according to claim 7 wherein said cell treatment container further comprises at least one reagent.

12. A kit according to claim 7 wherein said cell treatment container further comprises a sampling port to enable the removal of a fraction of said cells for analysis.

5 13. A kit according to claim 7 further comprising an exit port adapted to enable transport at least a portion of said cells to said patient.